



OESNEWS

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 22, 2008

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NR-08-11

OES Director Urges Californians to Continue Winter Weather Preparedness Efforts

SACRAMENTO – Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) Director Henry Renteria today urged Californians to continue their personal winter weather preparedness efforts as many areas of the state brace for several inches of rain, snow and high winds during the coming weekend.

"Even though the National Weather Service has indicated this weekend's storms probably won't be as strong as the ones that struck the state last month, history has shown that hazardous conditions can develop quickly," Renteria said. "It's important that Californians help ensure their personal safety and the safety of their loved ones by reviewing their emergency plans, restocking their emergency supply kits, and planning their trips to coincide with periods of good weather."

The OES Director recommended that Californians make sure their emergency kit is well-stocked and includes:

- At least a three-day supply of water for drinking, pets and personal hygiene
- At least a three-day supply of foods your family likes
- Battery-operated flashlights
- Battery-operated radios
- Extra batteries
- First Aid kit
- Warm clothing

Residents in the southern California burn areas that remain vulnerable to mud and debris flows are encouraged to:

- **Make advance plans** to stay with friends or relatives if a weather watch or warning is issued in your area.
- **Be prepared to evacuate** immediately and cooperate fully with local officials if you remain in your home during a watch or warning.
- **Monitor the weather**, particularly at night, if you are in a canyon, burn area or other location subject to flooding, mudflows and debris flow.
- **Evacuate immediately**, preferably to higher ground, if you hear these sounds or see these signs:
 - ✓ crackling trees
 - ✓ boulders knocking together
 - ✓ other sounds that might indicate that debris or mudflow is occurring
 - ✓ sudden increases and decreases in water flow
 - ✓ changes in the clarity of the water in a stream or channel

2-2-2 Continue Winter Weather Preparedness Efforts

“Our winter storm season is far from over,” reminds Renteria. “There is no substitute for staying alert, planning and being prepared.”

Additional OES tips include:

- Teaching children to avoid creeks, canyons, drainage control channels and washes at all times
- Identifying evacuation routes and a place to reunite if family members are separated
- Meeting with neighbors to discuss their plans and how you can help one another
- Contacting county flood control personnel and other experts to learn what actions you can take, including sandbagging, to protect your property from small mudflows
- Maintaining a full tank of gasoline
- Listening to the radio or watching TV for the latest weather forecasts and emergency instructions
- Cooperating fully with emergency officials

For more information and storm-preparedness tips, visit the OES Web page at www.oes.ca.gov...

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